

[Commenting on the above Note Col. R. W. Burton writes:—

Sambar stags are very fond of rubbing their horns against trees long after the horns are hard and all the velvet has disappeared. In many cases the beam, for some inches above the brow-antlers, is polished quite smooth from the habit. This would account for 'the bark worn through to the wood which showed the smooth polish of repeated friction' observed by your correspondent.

In most forest tracts of Central India and the Central Provinces the story, 'myth' it can be styled, that sambar have the habit of swinging by their horns is widely believed and related by the jungle tribes, Bhils, Gonds, Konds, Korkus. I have often had a tree pointed out to me as being one used by Sambar for the 'Jhoola' practice (Hindustani, *Jhoolna*, to swing).

Dunbar Brander, at page 178 of this book 'Wild Animals in Central India' describes what he terms 'preaching' by Sambar stags and has 'seen the stag's antlers become entangled in the overhanging bough, and this no doubt has given rise to the story that they swing by their horns'.

I never met a jungle man who could say that *he* had witnessed the swinging. It is no doubt a myth, like some other jungle beliefs, with some sub-stratum of truth as foundation for the story.—EDS.]

7.—THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE THAMIN (*PANOLIA ELDI*).

In his article on the 'Larger Deer of British India' in the *Journal* of the Society, Vol. xliii No. 4 of April 1943, R. I. Peacock gives the distribution of *Panolia eldi* as 'Manipur, Burma as far South as Tennasserim probably at least the Northern parts of the Malay Peninsula, Siam, Annam, and Hainan'.

Although Burma naturally includes Arakan there is no mention of any specimens ever having been obtained from that District or from that part of Eastern Bengal with which it marches.

I was surprised to come across Thamin during the recent campaign in Arakan on two or three occasions. My attention was first drawn to the presence of this species by Lt.-Col. Edgerly of the Civil Affairs Service, and late of the Burma Forest Service, a keen naturalist who knows the Thamin well, and thought it strange to find it on the west coast.

I never managed to shoot one, and personally saw only two, both adult males, and in the winter only.

One of the locals had caught a young female and had it as a pet in his village.

They seem scarce and very local and confined to the low ground and coastal foothills on either side of the Indo-Burma border where the country in winter is dry, and the jungle scrubby and open, with grassy hillocks, 'kunai' grass growing on the foothills.

The southern limit in Arakan seems to be MAUNGHNAMA about 10 miles North of MAUNGDAW.

How far North does it extend?

It certainly occurs in the open foothills 15 miles N-E of Cox's Bazaar where I have seen it twice. I found some Chittagonian villagers and local shikari knew it, but all said it was scarce. The Kumis and Moros who lived higher up had never heard of it.

Villagers said they never saw them in the monsoon, but the monsoon is so heavy that villagers do not get about much at that time. Is it possible that the Thamin migrates over the Yomas from the east in the dry season? On the other hand the doe in captivity in the village of Maunghnama was taken as a fawn in October 1943.

I hope someone will secure a specimen in order to ascertain whether there is any deviation from the type.

MAIN HEADQUARTERS,
15 INDIAN CORPS,
11 A.B.P.O.
20th June, 1945.

A. F. PHILIP CHRISTISON,
Lt.-General.

8.—A NOTE ON THE PRESENT DISTRIBUTION OF THE SUMATRAN RHINOCEROS (*DICERORHINUS SUMATRENSIS*) IN THE ARAKAN DISTRICT OF BURMA.

(With a map).

The recent campaign in Arakan from the autumn of 1943 till May 1945 offered a unique opportunity for trying to ascertain the present distribution of the Sumatran Rhinoceros in this District. Throughout this period I had special patrols, usually consisting of two British officers with some local levies and interpreters, operating in the Arakan Yomas east of the Kaladan and Lemro rivers, and later all the way south to the Sandoway Yomas. I briefed these officers, and they sent me regular reports of their observations. Unfortunately none of them were naturalists, but they produced much useful material, and this note is a collation of their reports.

Visual records were very few indeed. During the whole period only three were seen by British officers. In addition, tracks were seen at rare intervals, and droppings and wallows were pointed out by locals. On only two occasions were tracks pointed out as belonging to a cow followed by a calf. However, local tribal headmen who were consulted by patrol leaders knew the animal well where it existed, while others were quite definite either that it had never been known in their area, or that none had heard of it in their lifetime, though it used to be known there.

As these patrols moved continuously in the Yomas, and as I was constantly asking them about rhinoceros, I got a pretty